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At an adjourned MEETING of the AGENTS of
the WEST INDIA SUGAR COLONIES,
at Mr. FULLER's, in HARLEY STREET, on TUES-
DAY, the 20th MARCH 1792:

P R E S E N T,

STEPHEN FULLER,	} ESQUIRES.
JOHN BRATHWAITE,	
JAMES BAILLIE,	
CHARLES THOMSON,	
WILLIAM KNOX,	
WILLIAM HUTCHINSON,	}

R E S O L V E D,

That the following MEMORIAL be presented by Mr. FULLER.

To the Right Honourable WILLIAM PITT, &c. &c.

The MEMORIAL of the AGENTS for the several BRITISH
WEST INDIA COLONIES,

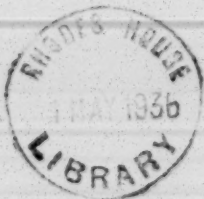
SHEWETH,

THAT your Memorialists, having been apprised of certain Regulations,
which it is the Intention of His Majesty's Ministers to propose to Parlia-
ment, for reducing the present high Price of Sugars, conceive it their Duty, as
the Representatives of the great Body of West India Planters who reside in the
Colonies, to submit the following Remarks to your Consideration.

THAT, from the Restoration of King Charles the Second down to the present
Time, a System of Commerce has been established and continued between this
Country and her West India Colonies, under the Sanction of repeated Acts of
Parliament, whereby the greatest Benefits have resulted to both.

THAT in tracing the Progress of that System, and in construing the Language
of those Acts of Parliament, Two fundamental Principles seem to have been
chiefly aimed at and settled; viz. An exclusive Trade and Navigation to British
Ships and Seamen, on the one Hand; and, on the other, An exclusive Supply of
the Consumption of Great Britain, by Sugar produced in the West India Colo-
nies, together with a free Exportation of the Surplus to Foreign Markets.—

That



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That no Guards or Restrictions have been wanting to secure the former, and no Encouragement has been omitted to invite and protect the latter.

THAT the Colonies have on their Part faithfully adhered to this System, and, with unremitting Industry, at prodigious Expence and Labour, have improved and extended their Plantations, so as not only to supply the Demands for Sugar in this Country, but to export a very large Annual Surplus to Foreign Nations, under the Encouragement of a full Drawback of Duties, or equivalent Bounties from the British Legislature.

That all other Sugars, except those produced in the West India Colonies, have been constantly burthened with heavy Duties, and various other Disadvantages—That these extended even to the British Possessions on the Continent of America, the Sugars from thence being treated as Foreign Sugars by the Statute 6th George the Third, C. 52—And that the high Duties on East India Sugar, imposed by a late Act of Parliament (27 George Third, C. 13) have only still confirmed the same System of Commerce which has so long prevailed in Favour of the West India Colonies.

THAT the present high Price of Sugar is owing to no particular Deficiency in the Supply of that Article from our own Colonies, but to a Variety of extraneous and accidental Causes, which are likely to be of a temporary Nature, and ought not to produce any permanent Change in the System of Commerce which has so long obtained.

THAT your Memorialists do not contend, in Favour of the West India Colonies, that Great Britain is at this, or any similar Crisis, bound to receive their Sugar for her own Consumption at an exorbitant Price; and they take this Opportunity of declaring, that, if a contrary Opinion has ever been imputed to them, they utterly disclaim it; but at the same Time they beg Leave to suggest, that the Remedy applied ought not to be, in this or any other Case, such as may by Possibility continue longer than, or be otherwise disproportioned to, the Evil.

THAT the Importation of Sugar from the British Possessions in the East Indies, at any Duty below that which now exists, cannot fail to injure, and in a Course of Time ruin the West India Colonies, under all the various Disadvantages to which they must be exposed in so unequal a Competition. That the proposed Regulations, so far as they regard this Object, are founded in no actual Necessity, and tend to introduce a permanent Innovation in the Commercial System of Great Britain, under the Pretence of curing an Evil which can be of no long Duration; but that, were even the present Scarcity of Sugar to continue Abroad, and Great Britain to require a much larger Supply for Foreign Markets than she has heretofore received, your Memorialists beg Leave to submit, that the British Sugar Colonies, if duly encouraged, have abundant Resources to furnish that Supply, without resorting to new and speculative Schemes of Commerce; unjust and detrimental to one Part of the British Empire, and of very uncertain Advantage to the other.

THAT

THAT it seems to your Memorialists perfectly vain and delusive to adopt any Experiment of importing East India Sugar for the Term of One Year, or for any other short Period of Time, inasmuch as large and expensive Works and various Supplies are required in the Manufacture of Sugar, and no suitable Returns can be expected for several Years; besides which, the Persons who are to incur that Expence, and to embark large Capitals on the Faith of Parliamentary Encouragement, would have the like Reason to complain should that Encouragement be withdrawn, as the West India Colonies would have, should it be granted in the First Instance.

That your Memorialists forbear to offer many weighty Political Reasons, which have occurred to themselves and others, against any permanent Encouragement of the Importation of Sugar from the East Indies, as it may effect the general Strength and Welfare of the British Empire; conceiving it their Duty, on the present Occasion, merely to represent the Injustice and mischievous Tendency of this Measure, as it regards the Prosperity and even the Existence of the British Sugar Colonies.

THAT this Measure, if carried into Effect, cannot fail to excite the greatest Alarms in the Minds of His Majesty's Subjects resident in the West India Colonies, as it directly militates against a long Succession of Acts of Parliament for near a Century and an Half past, and must entirely destroy that Confidence which the West India Colonies have hitherto reposed on the Faith and Protection of Great Britain.

Your Memorialists therefore pray, That, whatever other Expedients may be deemed necessary for reducing the present high Price of Sugars, no Regulation of a permanent Nature may be adopted for encouraging the Growth and Manufacture of Sugar in the East Indies, either by reducing the Duties now payable on the Importation of it into Great Britain, or otherwise.

And your Memorialists shall ever pray, &c. &c.

Richard Johnston Esq

Byanston Place



MEMORIAL

OF THE

AGENTS

OF THE

WEST INDIA SUGAR COLONIES;

PRESENTED TO

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and
the Secretary of State.

1792.

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